

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1260

PLEASE PASS STAFFDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, UNRWA, IS
SUBJ: STAFFDEL MCCALL/ASHWORTH VISIT TO WEST BANK UNRWA FACILITIES
APRIL 27

REF: AMMAN 3883

SUMMARY: IN VERY PRODUCTIVE VISIT, STAFFDEL MCCALL AND
ASHWORTH TOURED WEST BANK UNRWA FACILITIES AND MET WITH
MANY MEMBERS OF UNRWA LOCAL STAFF ON THURSDAY, APRIL 27.
THEY APPEARED SATISFIED THAT UNRWA PROGRAM ON WEST BANK
ADMINISTERED FAIRLY AND EFFICIENTLY; STAFFDEL'S QUESTIONS
CONCERNING UNRWA/GOI RELATIONS WERE LESS EASILY ANSWERED.
END SUMMARY.

2. STAFFDEL ACCOMPANIED BY UNRWA COMGEN MCELHINEY MET
WITH UNRWA WEST BANK DIRECTOR GALIPEAU AND DEPUTY
DIRECTOR ELLIS AT UNRWA KALANDIA CAMP ON OUTSKIRTS OF
JERUSALEM APRIL 27. AFTER INITIAL DISCUSSION, STAFFDEL
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VISITED CAMP. IN AFTERNOON, STAFFDEL MET WITH ENTIRE
UNRWA WEST BANK SENIOR STAFF AT SHUFAT HEADQUARTERS
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. CONGEN OFFICER ACCOMPANIED
STAFFDEL THROUGHOUT WEST BANK MEETINGS.

2. PROVISION OF SERVICES-- UNLIKE SITUATION IN JORDAN (REFTEL),
DISTRIBUTION OF RATIONS DID NOT ELICIT NEGATIVE COMMENT FROM STAFFDEL

--NEARBY REFUGEES, WHICH STAFFDEL LATER OBSERVED TO HAVE BEEN "VERY USEFUL." HEALTH SERVICES APPEARED COST-EFFECTIVE, AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY UNRWA IN POOR EDUCATIONAL CLIMATE OF WEST BANK MUCH NEEDED. DISCUSSING EDUCATION, STAFFDEL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXTENT OF CENSORING OF UNESCO-APPROVED TEXTBOOKS STILL ENFORCED BY MILGOV. HEALTH OFFICIALS COMPLAINED THAT THEY WERE NOT OFFERED BEDS IN ISRAELI HOSPITALS FOR DISEASES UNTREATABLE ON WEST BANK.

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOI--MORE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF INTEREST TO STAFFDEL CONCERNED FUNDAMENTAL UNRWA RELATIONSHIP WITH GOI: TO WHAT EXTENT WAS PURPORTED LARGE SCALE GOI SUPPORT OF UNRWA VISIBLE? PALESTINIAN LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPLIED HARDLY AT ALL.

4. ANTI-GOI ACTIVITIES AT UNRWA CAMPS--(MILGOV HAD ARRESTED RECENTLY SIX MEMBERS OF AN ALLEGED TERROR CELL IN CAMP STAFFDEL VISITED.) UNRWA EMPLOYEES TOLD STAFFDEL THEY BELIEVED LION'S SHARE OF BLAME BELONGED ON MILGOV FOR ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF UNRWA CAMP RESIDENTS. THEY POINTED TO ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER THAT HAD QUATTED MOST OF MORNING AT ENTRANCE TO CAMP AND REFERRED TO SOME OF UNRWA'S INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEES' REPORT OF PAINFUL VISIT TO UNRWA SCHOOL SHORTLY AFTER CLASSROOMS HAD BEEN TEAR-GASSED BY MILGOV. THEY DISAVOWED ANY UNRWA RESPONSIBILITY
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FOR TERRORIST ACTS THAT MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY CAMP RESIDENTS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY TEL AVIV WILL BE REPORTING ON STAFFDEL'S VISIT TO GAZA AND ITS MEETINGS WITH GOI OFFICIALS. STAFFDEL TOLD DPO THAT DURING LUNCHEON APRIL 27 IN JERUSALEM GOI MFA OFFICIAL MELAMED HAD EXPRESSED GOI WILLINGNESS TO SEE UNRWA CONTINUE ITS FUNCTIONS AND HAD NOT REGISTERED ANY OFFICIAL ISRAELI COMPLAINTS OVER UNRWA OPERATION. END COMMENT.

6. THIS MESSAGE NOTCLEARED WITH STAFFDEL BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE.

7. CONGEN HAS NO OBJECTION TO DEPARTMENT SUPPLYING THIS MESSAGE.
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